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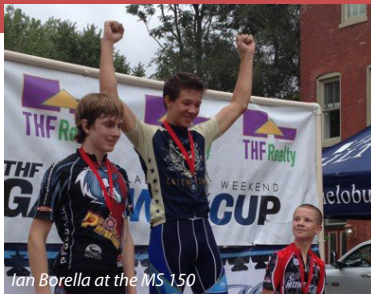


IAN BORELLA

from me

Ian

Date of Birth: 02/18/97
Grade: 10



What is your favorite memory from racing?

Biking the MS (Multiple Sclerosis) 150 for the first time. It's where you ride 150 miles in two days for MS. It's my favorite memory because I'm riding with 50 other people I get to talk to the whole time and enjoy a casual ride.

Do you have a weird patterned suit?

I have a winter riding jersey that is for a company called Aardvac, which is a vacuum company mixed in with an aardvark, so the logo is funny. It's a vacuum with an aardvark face.

Cyclist Wins Race Despite Age Difference

ONE HUNDRED YARDS LEFT.
Ian Borella, sophomore, looks from side to side, taking in the sight of the pack: 30 bikers, a tight-knit rainbow of bodies flying toward the finish line of the Gateway Cup Sept. 3, 2012.
Fifty yards left.
Adrenaline pumps through his veins as he pedals hard, feeling like his legs might fall off. A single thought pulses through his mind: get to the finish line.
Twenty-five yards left.
Suddenly, Ian finds himself farther ahead of anyone. He raises his arms in triumph as he soars across the finish line. A wave of relief crashes over him as Ian finally recognizes the obvious: he won.
This moment was the product of more than two years of hard work, training and dedication. It all started, however, with a simple conversation with one of Ian's neighbors.
"One of my neighbors owns a bike shop," Ian said. "I always saw him racing. It interested me. One day, he came over to my house with a bike

and said he wanted me to race for him. It just stuck."
When Ian started racing, he felt a need to prove himself with the pressure that came with competing with adults.
"I'm a lot younger than most of the people I compete against. I always feel happy that I can compete against adults," Ian said. "I feel like I need to prove myself. If I don't, I'll move down. I have to strive for placing in a race with the adults. Hopefully, I'll get to move up and adults will have me join their team. If you do well, they start to think of you as more of a threat, so you have to do better the next time. The pressure keeps building and building until you get to the top."
Ian did not let his age and the fact he was a cycling newbie get in the way of his aspirations when he won his age division for the Gateway Cup.
"[Winning the] Gateway Cup will be something I'll never forget," Ian said. "It was an adventure getting to it: I had to qualify by doing districts, then city, then state, then finally Nationals. Even getting to compete

"The pressure keeps building and building until you get to the top."

-Ian Borella, sophomore

was an honor for me. Winning was like nothing I've ever felt before. I couldn't stop smiling or jumping around everywhere I went."
Not just anybody could enter a race and hope to win without preparation, Ian said. He trained for two to three hours daily to prepare for races, sometimes biking more than 30 miles a day. Between his schoolwork and lack of daylight, sometimes he would bike inside until 11 p.m. The preparation, however, didn't always pay off.
"If you train really hard and do bad in the race, it's feels like it's not worth it anymore," Ian said. "You have to have have something in your mind that tells you to keep going, to go get it next time. A lot of times, I just want to quit, [but] thinking about winning a race keeps me going. There's always another time, another chance."
Although Ian used his training for self-motivation, there were some things he could only prepare for with experience.
"It's more of a mental sport than a physical sport. Anyone can ride their bike around and train hard

everyday to be physically ready, but if you don't know what you're doing in the race, you're not going to stand a chance," Ian said. "There's so many times that if you do one move wrong, you're out. You have to do everything perfectly to stay in. The entire time you have to be thinking about what you're going to be doing next. You'll do one thing, then immediately think, 'Okay, good, did that, now I have to go do something else.'"
While he used his mental endurance to propel him to success, Ian found other benefits to cycling other than just winning races.
"I've met hundreds of racers, professionals and nonprofessionals," Ian said. "Everyone is so nice. It's the best community you could be in. Everyone helps each other during the races, you all kind of know each other. Everyone always has your back, even if you've never met them before. I'd rather have all the friends [I've made] than win any race."

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